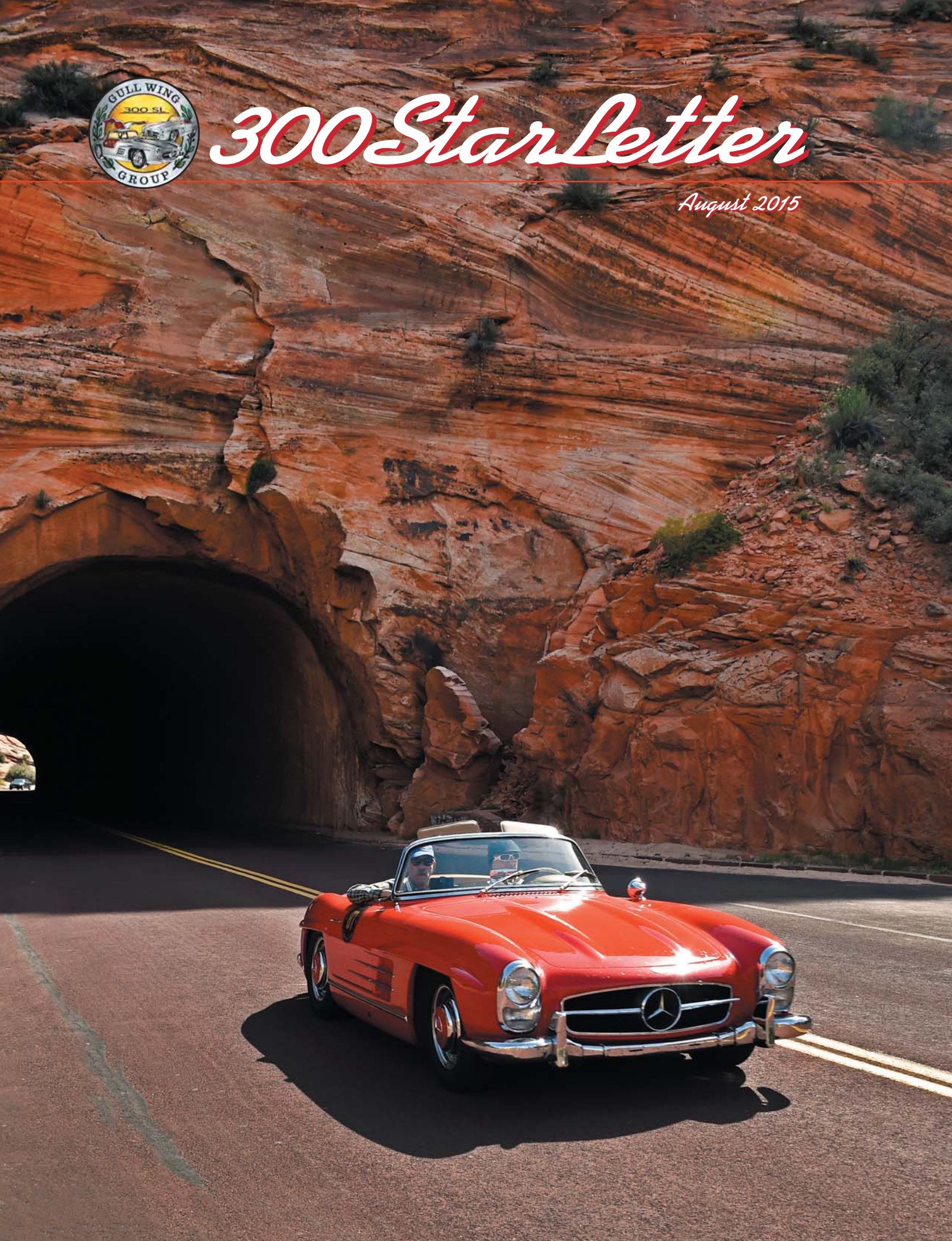




300 StarLetter

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Elegance in the Hills

The 38th Annual Ault Park Concours d'Elegance

By Jim Luikens

The inaugural Cincinnati-area concours was held in 1978 at the estate of William and Helen Williams. The original concours was the vision of Helen, who wanted to do something to honor her good friend, Bill Rudd.

After outgrowing the Williams Estate, the concours successively outgrew several other venues, including the Peterloo, the Cincinnati Country Day School, and the Indian Hill High School.

The concours then moved to its current location at Ault Park in 1996 and was renamed the Ault Park Concours d'Elegance. Ault Park is in the exclusive Mount Lookout neighborhood on the city's near east side and the hilltop park's vistas offer extensive, panoramic views of the Little Miami River valley.

Amazingly, The Ault Park Concours d'Elegance is the second oldest concours of its type in the United States.

Ault Park's lush setting provides one of the most unique venues for a concours in the USA since the concours vehicles are displayed in the formal gardens of the historic park. A classic pavilion overlooks the show field and it hosts an automotive art show, and brunch on concours day.

The featured marque for this year's concours was Mercedes. More than 50 Mercedes and Mercedes-Benz vehicles were spread across the show field in five classes. Among them were three different 300 SLs, one each of the three possible configurations. All three were in the Featured Marque Post-War Sports, Early class.





Dr. Wellington and Janet Morton won Best in Class with their silver '54 Gull Wing. Rick Grant took First in Class with his red '60 Roadster (soft top), Tom Stegman received an Award of Distinction for his black '62 Roadster (hardtop). Best of Class, Pre-War went to Joe Cantore for his fabulous '35 500K Cabriolet A and First in Class went home with B. Scott Isquick for his memorable 1911 Mercedes 50 HP Tourer.

Dr. Wellington and Janet Morton of St. Johns Florida won Best in Class for their lovely 1954 300 SL Gull Wing coupe. Its familiar DB180 silver paint was paired with a red leather interior.

Rick Grant, from nearby Dayton, Ohio, was awarded First in Class. Rick showed his attractive, red on black 1960 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster with its soft top erected.

Hometown Tom Stegman rounded out the clean sweep by receiving an Award of Distinction for his black on red 1962 300 SL Roadster. It was displayed with its hard top installed.

Finally, a couple of long-time Mercedes-Benz owners and supporters won other top awards as well. In the Feature Marque, Pre-War class, Best of Class went to Joe Cantore of Oakbrook, Illinois for his 1935 Mercedes-

Benz 500K Cabriolet A. The 1911 Mercedes 50 HP Maythorn 5-Passenger Touring car of B. Scott Isquick from Pepper Pike, Ohio took home the first place gold in the same class.

If you have not yet been to the Ault Park Concours d'Elegance I strongly suggest that you seriously consider attending next year's 39th annual event. It is always on the second Sunday in June and it is held at one of the most unique settings in this country for a concours. The cars are displayed in the park's formal gardens with a classic pavilion overlooking the show field. The sweeping river vistas only add to the ambience of the experience. My only hope is that it's cooler next year.

You can find more information at www.ohioconcours.com.